

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information output apparatus comprising:
 - a generating device for generating output information;
 - 5 an output device for generating and outputting information packets containing the generated output information and the control information used for processing the generated output information outside; and
 - an output control device for controlling the output device in such 10 manner as to output the information packets containing the fixed value information having a fixed value preset in place of the output information when the output information is not generated by the generating device.
2. An information output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - 15 an encryption device for encrypting the output information; and
 - a prohibition device for prohibiting the execution of the encryption process of the encryption device for the fixed value information when the output information is not generated by the generating device.
- 20 3. An information output apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an acquisition device for acquiring the copyright information for the output information, wherein:
 - the encryption device encrypts the generated output information when the acquired copyright information indicates that the generated 25 output information should be protected by the copyright.
4. An information output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
 - the output information is audio information and the fixed value of

the fixed value information is zero.

5. An information output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the control information is sync information used to form the
synchronous state of the information packets at the output destination.

5 6. An information output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the information packets are output through a serial bus
conforming with IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers)
1394 Standard.

7. An information output method comprising;
10 a generating process for generating output information;
an output process for generating and outputting information
packets containing the generated output information and the control
information used for processing the generated output information
outside; and
15 an output control process for outputting the information packets
containing the fixed value information having a fixed value preset in
place of the output information when the output information is not
generated in the generating process.

8. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and
20 representing a sequence of instructions, which executed by a computer
included in an information output apparatus, the instructions cause the
computer to function as:

a generating device for generating output information;
an output device for generating and outputting information
25 packets containing the generated output information and the control
information used for processing the generated output information
outside; and

an output control device for controlling the output device in such a manner as to output the information packets containing the fixed value information having a fixed value preset in place of the output information when the output information is not generated by the generating device.